

LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

www.lucastexas.us

October 2018



Mayor's Message *By Jim Olk*

I am continually astonished at the generosity and thoughtfulness of our residents. I often hear of our residents helping neighbors with big things like getting through an illness or smaller things like catching a dog or horse that has gotten loose and all those actions in-between. As I see it... this is the fabric that binds our community together. I can tell you that I see the impact that it has had on me. I now notice those opportunities that are put in my path to touch someone's life or to make something just a little nicer or better. This was highlighted for me last month when one of our longtime residents came to City Hall with a gift.

Ms. Lee Ford, who has lived in Lucas for more than 40 years and has owned property in Lucas for almost 70 years, wanted to give back to her community. (I have known Ms. Ford for close to 30 years, even before I moved to Lucas, and have always been amazed at her gifts of kindness and big-heartedness.) The City found out that Lee Ford was moving away from Lucas to downsize and enjoy the time at her retirement home. We were saddened by the news but it did give us an opportunity to recognize her with a Proclamation from the City of Lucas and to honor Ms. Ford for all that she has done for Lucas. The many meals she has made for those in need, the fellowships that she has developed and the best homemade gingerbread she has shared. But, Lee would not go without showing how much she appreciated the City. Ms. Ford presented the City with a check for \$100,000 to go toward a new ambulance. It was truly a touching moment. If you ever get the chance, please give Lee a big hug and thank her for all her years of being a Lucas resident that truly stands out as an example for all of us.

Thank you, Ms. Ford, you will be missed and remembered, we love you!

take our survey

The City would like to gather information regarding your internet service and communication preferences. The City has received feedback from residents that their current internet service is not meeting their needs. By gathering this information, the City can evaluate if there is a role the City can play in addressing internet service issues. The City would also like to gain your feedback regarding how you would you like to receive information from the City.

There are two methods for taking the survey. Residents will receive a paper copy with their water bill that they receive in late September. This can be completed and returned to City Hall (665 Country Club Road) in person, by mail or dropped in the drop-box at City Hall. An online version will also be available October 1 through October 19, 2018 on the homepage of the City's website at www.lucastexas.us. The information from the survey will be provided to the Lucas City Council at their meeting on November 1 to assist them with future decisions.

Your time in completing this survey is appreciated!

Property Tax Rate Set for 2018-2019

The City of Lucas is proposing a property tax rate of \$0.303216 per \$100 valuation which is the effective tax rate. The effective tax rate is the total tax rate needed to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the City of Lucas from the same properties in both the 2017 tax year and the 2018 tax year. This rate is comprised of \$0.202316 for Maintenance and Operations and \$.100870 for Interest and Sinking for Debt Services. Listed below is a ten-year history for the City of Lucas property tax rates. The City of Lucas has one of the lowest property tax rates in Collin County.

Fiscal Year	M&O	I&S	Total
FY 2018-2019	.202346	.100870	.303216
FY 2017-2018	.198695	.119253	.317948
FY 2016-2017	.230371	.087577	.317948
FY 2015-2016	.215514	.105147	.320661
FY 2014-2015	.233068	.087593	.320661
FY 2013-2014	.254005	.101611	.355616
FY 2012-2013	.261218	.112959	.374177
FY 2011-2012	.257723	.116454	.374177
FY 2010-2011	.247231	.126946	.374177
FY 2009-2010	.252040	.122137	.374177

OCTOBER

- October 4 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- October 11 Planning and Zoning Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- October 18 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- October 23 Parks and Open Space Board
City Hall | 7 pm

Save the Date

- October 2 National Night Out
Various Neighborhoods
- October 7 Lucas Fire-Rescue Open House
Lucas Fire Station | 12 - 4 pm
- October 13 Forest Creek Park Grand Re-Opening
Orchard Gap Lane | 9 am
- October 20 - Scarecrow Contest Display
November 3 Community Park
- October 28 - Early Voting in November Election
November 2 Community Center
- November 3 Fall Sweep Clean-Up/Arbor Day
Community Park | 8 am - Noon
- December 7 Country Christmas
Community Park | 6 - 9 pm

November 6 Elections

The City of Lucas will once again be a temporary voting location during the November 6, 2018 election. The Community Center will be available for voting October 28 through November 2 and on Election Day, November 6. The last day to register to vote in this election is October 9. For voter registration information and sample ballots, go to the Collin County Elections website at www.collincountytx.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx. The Community Center will be open for voting on the following dates and times:

- Sunday, October 28 1 - 6 pm
- Monday, October 29 7 am - 7 pm
- Tuesday, October 30 7 am - 7 pm
- Wednesday, October 31 7 am - 7 pm
- Thursday, November 1 7 am - 7 pm
- Friday, November 2 7 am - 7 pm
- Tuesday, November 6 7 am - 7 pm

Adopt a Pet



Meet Vivaldi. She's a four-year old Staffie mix that's very sweet and looking for her fur-ever home. Come visit Vivaldi at the Collin County Animal Shelter or to learn more visit the Collin County Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CollinCountyAnimal

Services/.

Celebrating Lucas Fire-Rescue Volunteers



Firefighter Gerald Reining has served as a Volunteer Firefighter with the City of Lucas Fire-Rescue for over nine and a half years, joining the department in January of 2009. He holds other certifications that make him an extreme asset to the department. Gerald demonstrates his commitment to the department by averaging over 700 volunteer hours annually. Gerald Reining and his wife, Christina, have a blended family of 5 children; Jessica, Christopher, Chase, Nathan, and Clayton. He was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and attended the University of Denver where he graduated in 1998 with his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Construction. He currently works full-time

for a large general contractor called AECOM Hunt, the 4th largest general contractor in North America. He holds the title of Preconstruction Professional and his role is to keep the project on budget during the design process. In his last 5 years at AECOM Hunt his focus has been on high rise luxury apartments, but one of his most memorable projects was renovation of the AT&T Center in San Antonio where the San Antonio Spurs play.

Gerald is the Cub Master for Cub Scout Pack 358 for Lovejoy ISD. He is also an Eagle Scout and participates as an adult leader with Troop 1776 in Plano. He enjoys racing cars in the 24 Hours of Lemons Car Series, as well as the Texas Desert Racing Association. He has a talent in the art of welding and has built 3 race car roll cages for the Lemon series and a few things around the Lucas Fire Station as well. When Gerald moved from Colorado to Texas in 2008, he wanted to find a way to get connected in the community and had an interest in learning about the fire industry, so he decided to join Lucas Fire-Rescue. When asked to share one thing about his time with Lucas Fire-Rescue Gerald said: "I have had the privilege of watching quite a few young men grow into leaders and career firefighters due to Lucas Fire-Rescue transitioning to a combination department. I had an established career when I joined the department, while most of the people we call Captain now were just in their late teens or very early 20's when I first met them. The citizens of Lucas are extremely fortunate to have all these individuals dedicating their professional careers to our community. These guys could work anywhere, and they have chosen to serve the citizens of Lucas."

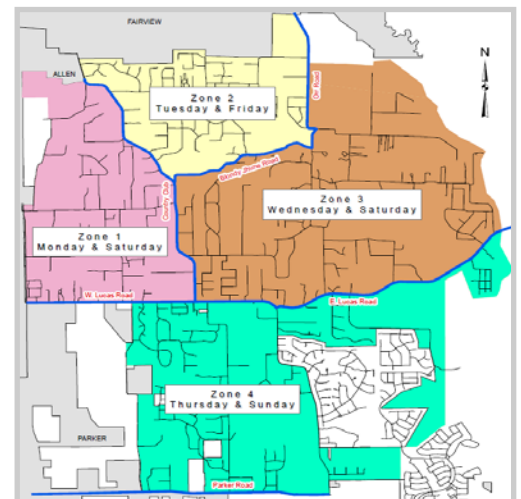
Gerald says he volunteers his time to Lucas Fire-Rescue because he likes to help people. He started his fire career at the Lucas Fire-Rescue and intends to end his fire career in Lucas. "It is a young man's game and it takes a little longer to put the bunker pants on now than it did 9 years ago." We are extremely fortunate to have Gerald as part of Lucas Fire-Rescue and could not be more grateful for his commitment and countless hours of service to the department over the last 9 and a half years.

Water Conservation

The City of Lucas encourages limiting lawn and landscape watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems to no more than one day per week on a designated day as illustrated below between November 1 and March 31 each year, and to no more than two days per week on designated days between April 1 through October 31 each year. No watering is allowed between 10 am - 6 pm. The outdoor watering schedule map is on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/watering-days/.

Watering Schedule (applies to all drought stages 1-3)

- Zone 1** (pink) – Tuesday and Saturday
- Zone 2** (yellow) – Monday and Friday
- Zone 3** (orange) – Wednesday and Saturday
- Zone 4** (green) – Thursday and Sunday





Forest Creek Park Grand Re-Opening Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting

The City of Lucas Public Works Department spent time this summer restoring playground equipment, adding a new pavilion, installing new benches, trimming trees and updating the park sign at Forest Creek Park. Please join us at the park for coffee and donuts on Saturday, October 13 at 9 am as we celebrate the Grand Re-Opening.

Scarecrow Contest

The fun begins this month! Enjoy some family time and help decorate the Lucas Community Park at City Hall this October by building a scarecrow. Prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded based on creativity and effort. Participants will need to register at the City Secretary's office **October 15 - 19** where they will be assigned a display space for construction of their entries. Scarecrows will be on display at the Lucas Community Park beginning October 20 through Arbor day, November 3 when the winners will be announced at the Lucas Fall Sweep Clean-up/Arbor Day event.



CPR Class

Lucas Fire-Rescue will be holding a community CPR class open to the public on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at the fire station located at 165 Country Club Road. This class will certify you with the American Heart Association in CPR and AED use for adults, children and infants. The class will be held from 9 am-3 pm and there is no cost to sign up. There will be a one hour lunch break. Food is not included. There are eight spots available for this class. If you would like to sign up, send an email with your name to enroll to cpr@lucastexas.us. Questions can be answered by either sending an email or calling 972.727.1242.

Trunk or Treat at Good Shepherd UMC

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is hosting a Trunk or Treat community event on Saturday, October 27 from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. Come enjoy a safe fun-filled evening of trunk-or-treat for candy and prizes. There will be plenty of trunks to visit, games to play, classic cars to admire, and FREE grilled hot dogs to eat. Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is located at 750 W. Lucas Road in Lucas. For more information call 972.429.0295 or email gsumclucas.org.



Lucas Country Christmas

The City of Lucas will be hosting its annual Country Christmas celebration on Friday evening, December 7 from 6 pm - 9 pm at the Lucas Community Park located at 665 Country Club Road. There will be ice-skating for all ages, little ones can enjoy a ride around the park aboard Santa's festive train, and everyone can enjoy freshly cooked hamburgers courtesy of In-N-Out Burgers, popcorn, hot chocolate, marshmallow roasting, and holiday music as we wait for Santa and his Elf to arrive. Kids of all ages can talk with Santa as they tell him what's on their wish list of things they would like to find under the tree Christmas morning. Please join us for a fun filled evening.



COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Volunteers Needed for Fall Sweep Clean-Up and Arbor Day

Keeping Lucas a beautiful place to live can be a lot of fun. Please join us on Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 8 am - 12 pm at the Lucas Community Park at 665 Country Club Road for our *Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day Event*. Volunteer check-in begins at 8 am at the pavilion. After checking in, volunteers will pick up their supplies, divide into teams, and then be driven to the drop off locations for their work assignments. Once done, they will be picked up and returned to the pavilion where lunch will be served.

In support of Arbor Day, members of the Legacy 4-H Club will again be on hand giving away tree saplings, along with a small bag of mulch. Representatives from Texas Pure will be available to talk about their products for organic gardening, and members of the Collin County Master Gardeners Association will be on hand to share information about the proper planting and care of the trees.

Registration is required, and everyone is welcome to participate. Boy/Girl Scouts, students, church groups, and individuals can pre-register now by downloading the volunteer release form found on the City's website and returning it to Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar. For more information call 972.912.1213 or cbonczar@lucastexas.us.

Lucas Fire-Rescue Open House

Lucas Fire-Rescue will kick off the 2018 Fire Prevention Week with an Open House on Sunday, October 7 from 12 pm to 4 pm at the Fire Station. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will be at the open house showcasing some of their beautiful birds, along with the Collin County Sheriff's Office, Friends of Lucas Fire-Rescue, Firewise, and Lone Star Search and Rescue. There will be fire prevention activities for kids as well a kid's physical ability test. A fire extinguisher prop to teach adults how to properly use a fire extinguisher will also be available. We hope that the entire family can join Lucas Fire-Rescue for a fun afternoon and to learn more about fire safety.

National Night Out October 2, 2018

Lucas Fire-Rescue is excited to participate in the 35th Annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, October 2. If your neighborhood would like Lucas Fire-Rescue to bring an apparatus to your party, please contact Lucas Fire-Rescue at 972.727.1242 or email dstevens@lucastexas.us.



Styrofoam Recycling Opportunity

A local advocacy group called Save Lucas Recycling is offering to recycle your Styrofoam. Bring your clean Styrofoam food containers, packing materials, and other Styrofoam products (no packing peanuts) to the monthly recycling drop off.

When: The first Saturday of each month (check the Save Lucas Recycling Facebook/Twitter pages for updates on cancellations)
Time: 1- 3 pm
Where: Starbucks parking lot - 2680 W. Lucas Road in Lucas - Look for the banner

This is not a City of Lucas sponsored event.



FISCAL YEAR 18-19 BUDGET

By Councilmember Wayne Millsap

For the past several months, City Council and Staff have been working on the budget for the fiscal year that begins October 1. We thought it would be helpful to provide some insight and details into the process of where your tax dollars go. The budget process starts in March at the department level and they work with the City Manager and Finance Director on a proposed budget. Considerable time, effort and detail go into the process. Once complete, the budget is then presented to the City Council at a workshop in July. The purpose of the workshop is to review the budget in detail and make changes based on priorities and funding. After the July workshop, the budget is reviewed and discussed at each City Council meeting until final approval in September.

To start, the City is a municipal entity that provides products and services to you, its customers. The City departments are aligned around those products and services. Most city functions are under the General Fund (fire and emergency medical services, streets, parks, building and development). The Capital Fund is used to account for resources used in the acquisition of large capital improvements, and the Debt Service Fund is established to account for revenues and expenditures used to repay the principal and interest on debt used to fund projects such as the Fire Station addition, road and bridge replacements, and other long-lived projects. The Water Fund is classified as an enterprise fund and it is used to account for business-like services provided to the public on a fee-for-service basis; water and trash services are budgeted for in this fund. The overall operating budget for the City is \$11,387,592 which includes the General, Debt Service, and Water Funds. The overall capital for the City totals \$8,945,465. So what does the City do and what does it cost? The key departments or cost centers within the General Fund are:

- **Lucas Fire-Rescue** is the largest department representing 40% of the budget. It includes 16 full-time employees and 18 volunteers; 4 fire-fighting vehicles, 2 ambulances and 6 support vehicles along with ancillary equipment and services needed to provide first class fire and emergency medical services.
- **Law Enforcement** is handled by 2 full-time deputies from the Collin County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) with access to all the services and support within the CCSO.
- **Public Works and Engineering** is a combination department which is responsible for streets and drainage along with the water system throughout the City. The condition of our roads are a high priority and we will discuss in a future article.
- **Development Services** is responsible for health and safety, construction permits, building inspections and code enforcement.
- **Parks and Facilities** is responsible for maintaining city hall, parks and easements.
- **City Operations and Management** includes all city administration, finance, and services not specific to a department.

The general fund budget for next year totals \$5.6 million:

Fire & Emergency Medical Services	\$2,246,971	40.1%
Public Works & Engineering	\$1,206,416	21.5%
City Operations & Management	\$1,137,729	20.3%
Development Services	\$ 420,669	7.5%
Law Enforcement	\$ 300,000	5.4%
Parks	<u>\$ 287,840</u>	<u>5.1%</u>
	\$5,599,625	100%

The capital fund budget for next year totals \$8.9 million consisting of the following projects:

Elevated Water Tower	\$2,777,240
Blondy Jhune/Western Bridge to Winningkoff	\$2,584,685
Stinson Road/Parker to Bristol Park	\$2,002,090
Winningkoff Road Reverse Curve to Snider Lane	\$1,184,150
Country Club/Estate Parkway Intersection	\$ 267,300
Year 3 of Water Meter Replacement	<u>\$ 130,000</u>
	\$8,945,465

The debt service fund budget for next year totals \$1.2 million consisting of the following principal and interest amounts:

2007 Certificates of Obligation	\$ 124,638
2007 General Obligation Bond	\$ 245,550
2011 Certificates of Obligation	\$ 249,625
2015 Certificates of Obligation	\$ 161,850
2017 Certificates of Obligation	<u>\$ 390,725</u>
	\$1,172,388

The water fund budget for next year totals \$4.6 million consisting of the following:

Water Costs NTMWD	\$1,954,915
Water Operating	\$1,363,875
Debt Service for Utilities	\$ 637,919
Trash Services	\$ 510,000
Engineering Costs	<u>\$ 148,870</u>
	\$4,615,579

So where does the money come from to pay for all this?

More about that in the next newsletter!